

REMARKS

By the present amendment, the specification has been amended to correct several apparent typographical errors and/or to improve its presentation. Claim 1 has been amended to obviate the examiner's objections thereto and/or to further clarify the concepts of the present invention. In particular, independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 3 therein and claim 3 has been cancelled. Dependent claim 4 also has been cancelled and the dependencies of claims 5-8 have been amended accordingly. Entry of these amendments is respectfully requested.

Initially, applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 3-10 are only objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Since independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of dependent claim 3 therein, it is submitted that claim 1 and the claims dependent thereon are now in condition for allowance.

In the Action, claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the patent to Ainsworth et al in view of the patent to Markham et al and the European patent publication to Lau et al. In making this rejection, it apparently was asserted that the cited Ainsworth et al patent teaches the method for manufacturing a fuel

hose except for (1) incorporating acrylate-based monomer B and silica C in the EPDM composition for the protector layer and (2) using UV polymerization for curing the EPDM based composition. The Markham et al patent was then asserted to teach the former (1) and the Lau et al patent publication was alleged to teach the latter (2). Reconsideration of this rejection in view of the above claim amendments and the following comments is respectfully requested.

As was mentioned above, independent claim 1 has been amended herein to incorporate the subject matter of allowable dependent claim 3 therein. Thus, it is submitted that the subject rejection is now moot. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC § 103(a) and allowance of claim 1, 2 and 5-10 over the cited patents are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the subject application is now in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, the undersigned hereby petitions for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for this extension may be charged to Deposit

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Account No. 01-2340, along with any other additional fees which may be required with respect to this paper.

Respectfully submitted,

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